

Central Intelligence Agency

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Dr. James B. Rhoads
Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Service
Eighth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Room 111
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Dr. Rhoads:

I am informed that our respective staffs concerned with the systematic review of permanent records for declassification under Executive Order 11652 mutually recognize that the release to the public of unevaluated intelligence reports would pose serious security problems. A risk is posed by the release of a number of reports, on a specific country or subject, which in the aggregate reveal CIA interests and scope of operations during a given time frame. In the report format, items such as "Place Acquired" provide evidence of operations of the Central Intelligence Agency or its predecessor agencies in a particular country, and source descriptions, even though general, pinpoint sectors within a country in which agents may have been reporting to the Central Intelligence Agency. If a report is released to the public without appropriate deletion of classified information, it can be expected that the revelations of operations would disrupt the relations of the United States with the country concerned, with attendant risk to present operations.

In consideration of these risks and consistent with the oral understanding reached by our respective staffs, it is my view that unevaluated intelligence reports require continued retention of classification unless sanitized to protect intelligence sources and methods and prevent any adverse impact that declassification and release of these reports" could have on the foreign relations of the United States.

Accordingly, this is to advise you that pursuant to section 5(E) of Executive Order 11652 I have identified unevaluated [] and field intelligence reports,

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accessioned as permanent records to the National Archives and Records Service by other agencies, as containing information that requires continued protection beyond thirty years in the interest of national security. If these reports are subsequently requested under the Freedom of Information Act or the mandatory review provisions of the Executive order, they should be referred to this Agency for review for the sanitization of format and release of non-sensitive information.

I expect that this determination will serve to clear up the backlog of material to be reviewed pursuant to Executive Order 11652, although the matter of review pursuant to Executive Order 12065 will have to be addressed at a later date. Of course, my staff concerned with classification review stands ready to assist in any problems of procedure that may arise.

Yours sincerely,
/s/ Stansfield Turner

STANSFIELD TURNER